United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/61

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 September 2015

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-15017(E)

Please recycle

Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures – The Case of Sudan

The term "unilateral coercive measures" usually refers to economic measures taken by one State to compel a change in the policy of another State, including trade sanctions in the form of embargoes and the interruption of financial and investment flows between sender and target countries.

The imposition of unilateral measures by some states as instruments of political and economic coercion against developing countries clearly contradicts the principles of the charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law or the rules-based multilateral trading system, and undermines the principle of sovereign equality of States. The measures clearly oppose the spirit of the UN Charter that calls for the promotion of tolerance, international peace and security, the reinforcement of the principle of amicable cooperation in the international arena.

A total embargo imposed by the United States, the world's largest economy, on Sudan affected many fields of the country's economic activity, including agricultural production and related industries, health services, higher education and scientific research. It also reflected on economic hardship that affects the people, particularly women and children who are usually more vulnerable. The US embargo and its impact hinder the enjoyment of human rights by the people of Sudan, particularly the right to development, the right to food and the right to health. This consequently has adverse impact on the socio-economic welfare of women and children.

The practice of embargoes is not based on agreed international instruments and is contrary to numerous international resolutions. Economic sanctions that accompanied the conflicts in the Middle East, from Iraq to Palestine, for example, had often dramatic consequences, most of them known and predictable.

In the area of health, more than elsewhere, the method shown for years its limitations and the adverse effects of economic sanctions often far outnumber their advantages. The embargo prohibits or inhibits input of any reconstruction materials and limits the food and medical supplies. The degradation in the health sector is thereby worsened.

All cross-frontier points are closed to fuel and goods, and this closure usually aggravates an already deteriorating situation. In hospitals, pharmaceutical stocks suffer critical shortages, programmable surgery is often impossible and primary health care centres have to reduce their activities.

The shortage of fuel also has other consequences. Hospitals no longer have sufficient supply to power their generators and, during the power cuts, the functioning of services is limited to intensive care units, emergency and operating rooms. Drug arrivals are also very random. Pumping stations work only sporadically and access to clean water is scarce.

Recommendations:

- Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development urge the international community to denounce strongly embargos and protect civilian's rights.
- To protect and promote immediately Rights to Development
- To protect and promote immediately Rights to food
- To protect and promote immediately the Rights to health.